



P38.7
4.38.7
c.1
THE KEYSTONE

Defender

C. 5 No. 8

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE, HARRISBURG, PA.

AUGUST, 1956

THE COMMONWEALTH IN "OPERATION ALERT 1956"

HAD "Operation Alert 1956" been a reality on July 20, a most severe blow would have been dealt the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It would not, however, have been a "death blow," according to official appraisals.

As planned by Federal Civil Defense authorities, the "enemy assault" would have resulted here in over two million dead, over a million and one-half seriously injured, and a half-million homeless. Radiation problems would have prevented civil defense activities in many afflicted sections for several days.

Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Director of Civil Defense, issued orders to Area Directors that Commonwealth policy in this operation would be: first, the care of the seriously injured; and second, the restoration of law and order. Early efforts were all directed toward these ends.

Here, it is interesting to note that the Commonwealth medical stockpiles would have been adequate for initial treatment of all casualties. With the cooperation of the Department of Military Affairs, these supplies could have been transported within a matter of several hours to all stricken cities. Also available within several days at the most, would have been sufficient FCDA 200-bed emergency hospitals to treat such casualties on an emergency basis.

Early reports indicated, however, that in some sections insufficient medical personnel had been trained locally to meet such crisis. A need for more medical civil defense organizational work and training in many counties and communities was made apparent.

The Police picture, too, was not hopeless but pointed the needs for additional police. Throughout the Commonwealth, according to figures prepared by Captain Jack R. Dodson, State Law Enforcement Coordinator, 36,000 auxiliary police would have been required to meet the "Operation Alert 1956" crisis. He stated that 22,500 would have been left (counting out those in devastated areas) for our use. About one thousand more would have been provided by the Adjutant General. It would have been necessary, therefore, to ask for police help from another state of Region II, FCDA.

Dr. Arthur B. Welsh, State Civil Defense Medical Coordinator, had Area Medical Directors stationed at Butler, Lewistown and Quakertown, along with a medical staff of sanitarians and nurses. It became clear that shortly after July 20th, a serious health problem would arise in the stricken areas. Problems to be solved included prompt burial of the dead and control of flies and rodents. State health officials worked realistically on such problems and dispatched instructions to civil defense directors in affected counties.

Another problem, particularly in areas "devastated" by thermo-nuclear bombs was radio activity. The Commonwealth could and would have provided many instruments for radiation detection, but many communities had insufficient trained personnel for manning such instruments.

Governor George M. Leader issued two highly-important Emergency Orders. These orders proclaimed a state

THE GOVERNOR'S PARTICIPATION

Governor George M. Leader personally commanded civil defense forces of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for several hours during "Operation Alert 1956." The governor was stationed with Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Civil Defense Director, in the Harrisburg Control Center.

At 4:05 p. m. Governor Leader spoke through the State RACES net as well as Conelrad nets. It is believed that the amateur net broadcast may have been the first such message by a governor.

The final message from State Control was as follows: "Governor Leader and the State Council of Civil Defense extends to all who participated in today's simulated emergency operations "Sincere Congratulations" on their outstanding achievements. Please pass to all."

of extreme emergency throughout the Commonwealth under authority of Section 7, State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951, as amended.

Governor Leader also ordered: (1) all banking and similar financial establishments closed; (2) excepting transactions authorized by State Director of Civil Defense or county or local civil defense directors for military defense purposes, all wholesale and retail distribution and sales of fuel, fuel oils, gasoline, medical supplies, drugs, foodstuffs, dairy products, clothing and all other merchandise required for home and personal use, including alcohol and malt and alcoholic beverages, discontinued, (3) Commissioner of State Police and Adjutant General to lend all possible assistance in enforcement. Immediate compliance by all was to be mandatory.

Another important announcement, made by the Federal Government, advised of Federal reimbursement for expenses incurred in providing financial

(Continued on page 6)

WARREN DIRECTOR GETS AWARD

MR. WILLIAM C. FUELLHART, Civil Defense Director of Warren County and the leader of disaster operations in the Spring, 1956, floods in that county, was presented, recently, with the Benjamin Rush Medical Award. He was cited as the outstanding man in the fields of health and safety in Warren County for the year 1955.

Mr. Fuellhart received the award for his leadership during the floods. The award was made on July 4th during a celebration that included both a mammoth fireworks display and a parade.

It will be recalled by readers of THE KEYSTONE DEFENDER that Mr. Fuellhart's organization has been called into duty, in addition to the floods, for alleviation of suffering and protection of life and property during a recent severe hotel fire, refinery fires and now most recently a flash flood. He was praised highly by Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Civil Defense Director, for his work during these operations.

RESCUE COURSES

THE SCHEDULE of the Federal Civil Defense Administration Rescue Courses for the remainder of 1956 follows:

Light Duty Rescue Instructor Course, September 24-28, October 15-19 and December 3-7.

Heavy Duty Rescue Instructor Course, September 24-October 5, October 15-26, and December 3-14.

Advance Rescue Instructor Course, November 19-23.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

HON. GEORGE M. LEADER, GOVERNOR
HON. H. G. ANDREWS, *Acting Chairman*
Speaker of the House of Representatives
HON. ROY E. FURMAN
Lieutenant-Governor
MAJ. GEN. A. J. D. BIDDLE, JR.
Adjutant General
HON. CHARLES R. BARBER
Auditor General
HON. GENEVIEVE BLATT
Secretary of Internal Affairs
HON. M. HARVEY TAYLOR
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
HON. JOHN H. DENT
Minority Leader of the Senate
HON. CHARLES C. SMITH
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
HON. MAURICE K. GODDARD
Secretary of Forests and Waters
HON. JOSEPH J. LAWLER
Secretary of Highways
HON. BERWYN F. MATTISON
Secretary of Health
COL. EARL J. HENRY
Commissioner, Pennsylvania State Police
HON. HARRY SHAPIRO
Secretary of Welfare

* * *

DR. RICHARD GERSTELL, *Director*

Free subscriptions to this publication may be obtained by contacting your local civil defense director. Local civil defense directors write to: State Council of Civil Defense, Quakertown, Penna.

MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY

(A Report to Civil Defense Medical Division)

A COMPREHENSIVE paper on "The Impact of Atomic Energy Activities of Medicine and Medical Research," was presented recently at the Tenth Annual Rocky Mountain Cancer Conference by Charles L. Dunham, M.D., Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine, United States Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Dunham outlined vividly the challenge to physicians presented by the Atomic Age. He stated that a few years ago only a relatively few persons, radiologists, and a small number of physicists, were in a position to be injured by radiation. He added that "But now the ever-growing atomic energy industry has swelled this number to many thousands. Although remarkably few radiation injuries have been recorded to date in spite of the rapid expansion of this work and the fantastic quantities of radioactivity handled today, it is absolutely essential that every physician and medical student become conversant with the biological effects of ionizing radiation and the diagnosis and treatment of the various types of radiation injury in both their acute and chronic or late manifestations." The Doctor declared this was necessary not only to give appropriate treatment but also to give reassurance to patients that symptoms experienced were not due to over exposure to radiation if indeed this were to be the case.

Dr. Dunham discussed harmful effects of radiation including cataracts, leukemia, premature aging and genetic results and emphasized continuing studies in these fields as well as in the fields of the use of radiation in medical treatment.

Dr. Dunham concluded, "A whole new field of industrial medicine and industrial hygiene has opened up with the growth of the atomic energy industry. To help meet the need for trained personnel in this field the AEC has established a number of traineeship type special fellowships. Some sixty to seventy fellowships in health physics are granted each year which provide for nine months of academic training at Vanderbilt University, the University of Rochester and the University of Washington, followed by three months on-the-job training at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Hanford Works respectively. Six or seven fellowships are granted each year for special training in industrial

hygiene at Harvard and at the University of Pittsburgh.

"In industrial medicine proper we grant seven or eight fellowships each year for special training at the Harvard School of Public Health, the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. These medical fellows are then offered a year of on-the-job training at one of our major sites, or they may take another year of academic work before their on-the-job training. Frankly, the demand for personnel with this sort of special training is so great that we could double this program if there were sufficient numbers of qualified applicants.

"Finally in the event of an atomic war the physician must be prepared to evaluate and treat radiation casualties whether he is in military or civilian practice. Radiation injuries as they are likely to be encountered on a large scale in an atomic war should not be approached as something bizarre and strange. They present no symptoms not well known in the normal daily practice of every physician. They consist in nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, purpura, oral and gastro-intestinal ulcerations, gross hemorrhages and the like. The blood picture of pancytopenia is no novelty either. The sequence of events and the appropriate use of presently available therapeutic agents can easily be mastered if the physician will only take a little time to it. The nature and induction time for late effects of overexposure are quite well known.

"The present areas of uncertainty in our knowledge relate principally to the precise dose and dose rate relationships to the specific effects rather than to the nature of the effects themselves. And even as to doses we can today bracket them in terms of effects produced with sufficient accuracy so that the National Committee on Radiation Protection can recommend maximum permissible occupational exposure levels with considerable confidence.

"In short, the by-products and tools of atomic energy bid fair to making contributions to medical science and the practice of medicine as great as have been made in the past by the microscope itself. At the same time they have added new responsibilities to those of you who work in the medical sciences, and those who practice the art."



Employees of the State Council of Civil Defense, Harrisburg, opening the first Conelrad reports from Civil Defense Directors of the Commonwealth. Within three days following Project Tune-In, 66 of 67 counties had filed reports. Dr. Gerstell called the response "one of the finest we have had."

Plant Auxiliary Police

AN ALERT and aggressive Civil Defense organization of the Boyertown Casket Company was strengthened recently by the addition of 28 Auxiliary Police of firm workers headed by H. David Fegley. All of these men are graduates of the 8-week course of the State Council of Civil Defense. According to the Boyertown Times (official publication of the company) this Auxiliary Police group will be used in the event of disaster by enemy attack, fires, panics or riots. The men were selected, according to the paper, for physical ability and past training and the majority have served in the United States Armed Forces. They had been divided by Chief Fegley into three groups, traffic police, patrolmen and guards. The traffic police will be located at the three main entrances at the plant to control traffic in case of disaster. Others have been assigned as patrolmen throughout the plant and the guards have been assisted at the building entrances and the power plant. Following graduation from the course, the Auxiliary Police toured the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratories and Identification Buildings in Washington, D. C.

The Boyertown Casket Company has also been an industrial leader in adapting its motor vehicles for Civil Defense purposes. (See photo in February 1956 issue of KEYSTONE DEFENDER.)

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FLOODS

FLASH FLOODS, which resulted in mobilization of some Civil Defense units, struck the Western Area of Pennsylvania on the evening of July 26th. Areas hardest hit were Waynesburg in Greene County, the western part of Washington County, Beaver Valley and Beaver Falls to Aliquippa and Warren.

In Waynesburg an estimated fifty families were evacuated. The water came so fast, according to reports, that when a fireman walked into a home to see if anybody was left behind he had to swim out. It was reported that twenty-four houses were badly damaged by water in Waynesburg.

The water tore up many feet of pavement in Beaver Falls. It also clogged culverts, broke sanitary sewers and washed out railroad tracks.

In the vicinity of Glade Run and Indian Run at Warren, a report was made of five inches of rain in two hours. Boulders, logs and debris were swept off the mountain sides by this water and dumped into the city streets.

The water rescue squad there evacuated fifty families with an Army Duck that had just been purchased.

In all of the flood-swept communities there was mass feeding for Civil Defense personnel and auxiliary police were on duty.

Welcome! New Directors

WESTERN AREA

Mr. James R. Winner, 1018 Grandview, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mr. George J. Edwards, 108 Locust Lane, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mr. Waid P. Alexander, Dutch Lane, R. D. #1, Sharpsville, Pa.; Mr. Emerson Heile, R. D. #1, Transfer, Pa.; Mr. Arthur M. Lockie, 106 Taylor Ave.; Sharon, Pa.; Mr. Benjamin O. Heady, 3 Southvue Court, R. D. #1, Venetia, Pa.; Mr. Bernard Vangrin, Slickville, Pa.

CENTRAL AREA

Mr. Ralph R. Hatch, 407 Church St., Athens, Pa.; Mr. Walter R. Stroud, 50 Lafayette St., South Waverly, Pa.; Mr. Newton D. Miller, 701 Von Lunen Road, Johnstown, Pa.; Mr. Oscar P. Kreamer, Jr., R. D. #1, Lock Haven, Pa.; Mr. Elwood Miller, 317 North Second St., Lykens, Pa.; Mr. Benjamin A. Hess, Grantville, Pa.; Mr. S. C. McClellan, Mifflin, Pa.; Mr. David DiBiase, 20 Morgan St., Duncannon, Pa.; Mr. Edwin LeRoy Bupp, Wellsville, Pa.; Mr. C. Kenneth Metzger, R. D. #4, York, Pa.

EASTERN AREA

Colonel Frank Townend, Yeager Ave., Dallas, Pa.; Mr. Edward F. Wunsch, Feasterville, Pa.; Mr. Ira R. Rutt, 345 McCartney St., Easton, Pa.; Mr. Ernest Miller, Paupack, Pa.; Mr. Howard Lininger, R. D. #2, Stroudsburg, Pa.; Mr. Edward M. Ferguson, 225 Summit Ave., Jenkintown, Pa.; Mr. Robert L. Houck, 233 South Fourth St., Hamburg, Pa.; Mr. Russell Honeywell, Lake St., Dallas, Pa.; Mr. Clarence Seip, 28 North Fourth St., Stroudsburg, Pa.; Raymond DeRaymond, Esq., 8 W. High St., Nazareth, Pa.

MAGAZINE RACK

THE Civil Defense Director of Eugene, Oregon, has devised a unique method for keeping civil defense literature constantly available to the public which should be useful to you. Due to lack of staff to make regular mailings and door-to-door distributions, the Civil Defense Director requested and received permission from the local postmaster to install a magazine rack in the city Post Office in which to place a supply of current civil defense information. He publicized this device by means of a Letter-to-the-Editor of the local paper.

The public library, also, is suggested as a place which may cooperate in a project of this kind. The public library should be given copies of new civil defense publications.

THE PLANNING OF A MASS CARE CENTER EXERCISE

(The material contained in this article was prepared substantially by Mrs. J. Wesley Leas of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County Civil Defense. Mrs. Leas had experience in Britain during World War II and has been one of the leaders in developing a fine welfare program in Lower Merion Township.)

IN PLANNING a mass care center exercise always incorporate other Civil Defense activities (Auxiliary Police, Transportation, Wardens, Communications) wherever possible, giving one person responsibility for overall liaison.

1. Before instruction of Welfare Staff clear two or three possible dates for exercise with owner of the building.

2. After instruction of Staff on same evening as instruction:

(a) Decide most convenient date and time to hold exercise.

(b) Plan lay-out of entire building as mass care center but unless exercise is to be very large use auditoriums of church or school as main center of activity. The exercise will be more interesting and the Staff will learn more when action is confined.

(c) If Civil Defense funds are not available decide how food is to be obtained. If Civil Defense transportation is not available make head of kitchen staff responsible for seeing their food is on hand for the exercise. Suggest menus:

Powdered coffee and/or cocoa

Canned orange juice

Cookies and/or crackers

Sugar

Condensed milk

Soup (type that can be drunk from cups)

(d) Give clothing chief responsibility of seeing that a supply of clothing is on hand for the exercise.

(e) Check to see if Registration and Inquiry need further instruction. Assign one experienced R. & I. to act as advisor the night of the exercise.

(f) Give reception the responsibility for seeing that sufficient reception tags will be available. (If tags do not have perforated numbers R&I should mark tag with "X" when evacuee has been registered.

(g) Give First Aid responsibility for supplies for exercise.

(h) Ask maintenance to see that adequate wastepaper baskets are available for exercise.

(i) Give Assistant Manager responsibility for seeing that signs listed below are made. These should be as durable as possible.

Manager	Children
Information	Luggage
Food	Clothing
Elderly	Maintenance
Registration and Inquiry	
First Aid	
No Smoking (if necessary)	

3. Whenever possible have members of Boy/Girl Scout Troop in uniforms attached to church or school to act as messengers in Center. One older Scout should be responsible for all other

Scouts and should report to the Manager. Arrangements should be made with troop leader for Scouts to receive I.D. cards after a specified number of hours in Civil Defense activities. Suggest assignments for Scouts in Center:

(a) Near reception to help with children and pets, and those needing first aid.

(b) In First Aid room.

(c) In kitchen.

(d) Help with luggage.

(e) At Manager's desk.

4. Before dismissing Staff remind them (a) To inform Manager if they are unable to attend night of exercise; (b) To report at Mass Care Center at least one-half hour before start of exercise. (Note: 24-48 hours prior to Exercise Staff should be reminded by telephone or mail of Exercise.

EVACUEES

The success of an Exercise depends largely on Evacuees and the problems they present. It is better to have 45 Evacuees who will thoroughly enter into the spirit of the Exercise and insist on their problems being solved than it is to have 70 Evacuees who just walk into the Center to have a finger bandaged and a cup of coffee. Encourage the Evacuees to really act out the problem until it has been satisfactorily solved.

Possible ways of obtaining evacuees:

(a) Through warden service.

(b) Through clubs and organizations.

(c) Ask 12 women to supply 5 Evacuees each.

(d) Through staffs of other Mass Care Centers.

Each Evacuee must be impressed that his presence on the night of the Exercise is very important.

AUXILIARY POLICE

Arrange for at least three Auxiliary Police to attend exercise. Assign one to patrol the inside of the Center and two to handle the parking.

OBSERVERS

If the Exercise is the first one for the Staff, every consideration should be given to the Staff and their handling of the Evacuees; too many observers can disrupt this. However, if Staff is trained and used to working together, the Exercise can be used as excellent publicity for Civil Defense.

1. The following may be invited to attend:

(a) Local Civil Defense Director.

(b) Heads of other Civil Defense departments.

(c) Local Governing Officials.

(d) Local Press.

(e) One official Civil Defense Welfare Observer.

2. Observers should wear some distinguishing mark such as red armband.

3. If many observers are to be present arrange conducted tour in small groups of the Center and then seat them in a prearranged area.

4. If few observers are to be present they may be allowed to observe the Exercise as they wish.

NIGHT OF EXERCISE

1. Before Exercise

(a) When Staff have signed in (name, address, telephone number, assignment) issue armbands and prepare building for evacuees. A Log Book is good form for signing in Staff.

(b) When Center is ready, call Staff together and remind them that, for most of the Evacuees this will be their first contact with Civil Defense, and that they will be judging Civil Defense by the sincerity with which the Staff carry out their assignments.

(c) Post one Civil Defense official outside building to instruct any Exacuee who does not have a problem.

2. During Exercise

(a) Manager *never* leaves desk. Assistant Manager is the trouble-shooter and liaison.

(b) Counselors and Boy Scouts should see that too long a line does not form at R&I. Registrars will work more efficiently if they feel they are not being hurried. It is more important to fill out the forms correctly than it is to register every evacuee.

(c) Do not allow children to run or play games except in supervised areas.

(d) Give Maintenance at least one problem during the Exercise (power failure, jammed toilet door).

(e) If any Staff need assistance assign Evacuees to help.

(f) When most problems have been solved, Manager should call for attention, thank Evacuees for coming, and close the Exercise.

3. After Exercise

(a) Restore building to normal.

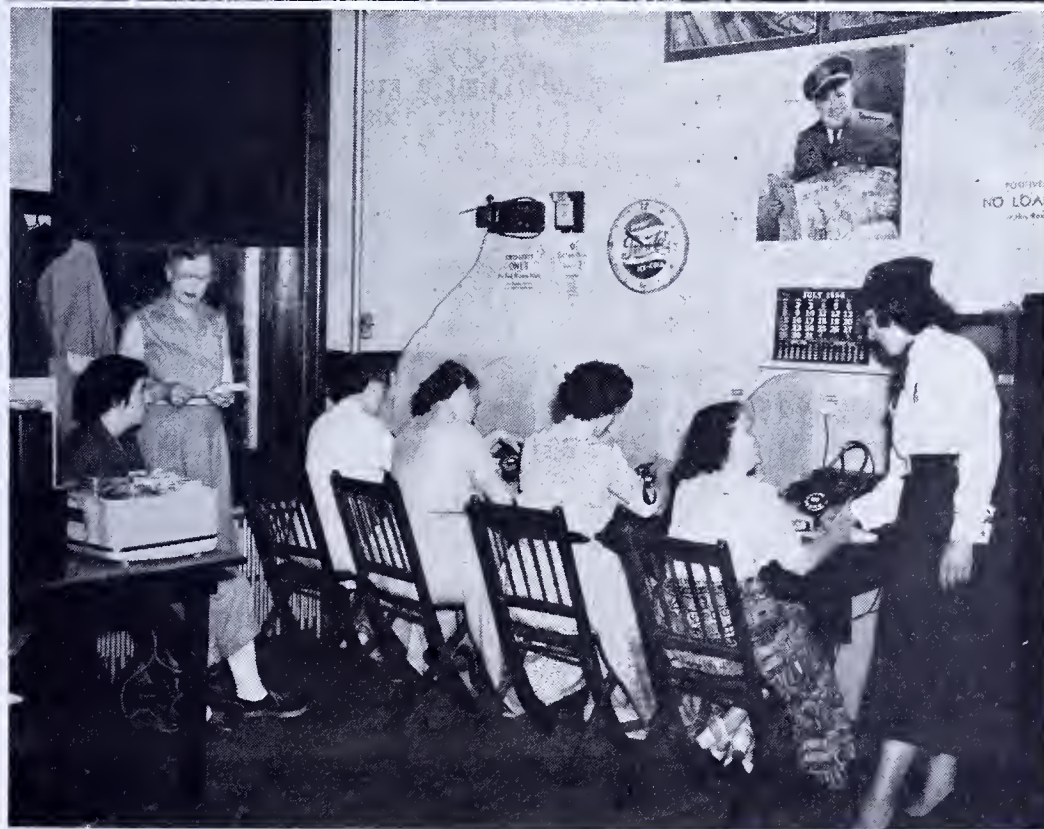
(b) Call all Staff to a short critique at which Manager asks:

Official observer for his report and suggestions.

Staff members for their reports.

(Continued on page 7)

"OPERATION ALERT 1956" PHOTOS



A typical rural county control center for civil defense. Pictured here in the courthouse, Lycoming County (Williamsport) are S. Calvin Weaver, acting county director, and his county staff. In the next room are the communication operators. As the State Council has recommended, telephones are not on desks of coordinators.

(Photos by Marshall R. Anspach, Williamsport)

Dogs In Civil Defense

A RECENT news report stated that Connecticut will be the first state in the country to start training dogs for Civil Defense rescue work. The idea, it seems, has come from Great Britain.

It was explained that the value of dogs is in locating persons buried by

debris. It was pointed out that when fully trained a dog is able to differentiate between a living or dead victim.

According to the news item, a Connecticut Civil Defense official has recommended to FCDA that similar dog training programs be set up throughout the country.

Canadian Newsmen Make Recommendations

AT A CONFERENCE held recently at Arnprior, Canada, representatives of the press, radio and television made suggestions aimed at better Civil Defense relations with the public at large.

It is felt that some of these suggestions may be interesting to Pennsylvania Civil Defense Directors inasmuch as they touch on the topics familiar to all of us. One of these topics is the much discussed "public apathy."

It was the feeling of Canadian newsmen that the word "defense" might be taken out of the Civil Defense picture. They contended that this word was synonymous with "National defense" hence the feeling of responsibility of the Federal government alone. They said that by removing the word they felt Civil Defense would be more readily acceptable to the public and the program would be recognized and supported at all levels of government.

Newsmen also pointed out the value of stressing natural disaster operations to win the support of the people. They said "the possibility of atomic and hydrogen warfare is a difficult conception for the majority of Canadians but natural disaster is understood in all ten Provinces."

All newsmen agreed that local news media must be kept acquainted with Civil Defense planning and development. It was suggested that Civil Defense maintain a direct liaison with newspaper, radio and television editors and that a news evaluation should be given both before and after every Civil Defense exercise.

Another suggestion from the news media was for more frequent and better publicized exercises and demonstrations.

They also recommended that officials with military backgrounds drop the use of military titles, stating that such titles aggravated rather than impressed civilians.

It is felt that some of the suggestions contained in this Canadian discussion may be of use to Civil Defense Directors now preparing for National Defense Week.

Call List Reminder

A REMINDER to all county civil defense directors: Are you keeping your Emergency Call List up-to-date? Remember, please, as "key" telephone numbers are changed, inform the State Council of Civil Defense at the earliest possible date.

COMMONWEALTH TARGETS

The location of the official ground zero used in Operation Alert 1956 for the target areas in the State of Pennsylvania were as follows:

Area	Weapon Size	Type Burst	Ground Zero
Allentown	100kt	Surface	W. Dauphin and Union Boulevard
Bethlehem	100kt	Surface	Lehigh University
Easton	100kt	Surface	North West Edge of River Junction
Erie	1 MT	Surface	McAllister Peninsula, Soldiers and Sailors Home
Johnstown	20kt	Air	Lee Hospital
Philadelphia	1 MT	Surface	International Airport
	5 MT	Surface	37th and Walnut
	1 MT	Surface	Frankford, El. Station
Lancaster	100kt	Surface	Armstrong Cork Plant
Pittsburgh	1 MT	Surface	Gulf Building
Wilkesburg	1 MT	Surface	Penn and Swissvale
Reading	100kt	Surface	Wyomissing Blvd. and Reading Blvd.
Morrisville	100kt	Air	Pennsylvania and Palmer Aves.
Wilkes-Barre	20kt	Surface	Hazel Ave. and Dana St.
York	100kt	Surface	Navy Ordnance Plant

"Operation Alert 1956"

(Continued from page 1)

assistance for the temporary relief or aid of any civilian injured or in want as a result of any attack and for all authorized expenses incurred during the Civil Defense emergency in the interest of national security.

Utilities organizations of the Commonwealth cooperated fully in the "operation." Ralph Garverich of Pennsylvania Power and Light Company was stationed at the State Control Center and representatives of Metropolitan Edison and Philadelphia Electric Company were at area control centers. The State policy with regard to utilities was to let "industry solve the problem," lending all assistance possible. The Utilities report was an encouraging one, despite widespread "destruction."

Western Area

Ross I. Webb, Western Area Director, reported 30,141 civil defense workers active in that area. He stated that 115 persons were on duty at the Western Control Center (Butler) where a total of 700 messages were handled during the "operation." Available communications were telephone, amateur radio and police and fire radio.

An extensive exercise involving actual movement of equipment was held by Erie County and counties surrounding, including Venango, Crawford and Warren. Convoys of police, firemen and welfare workers were moved from support areas into the target area, with constant communications between such convoys and civil defense control centers. The Welfare

Division of Crawford County fed about 1500 civil defense workers.

Eastern Area

A report from county directors indicates that 24,238 civil defense workers participated in "Operation Alert 1956" in the Eastern Area.

In addition, 56 volunteers served at Eastern Area Headquarters. A total of 679 messages were processed during the twelve official hours of operation.

Public participation phase

From state-wide reports, it was clear to Dr. Richard Gerstell, our state director, that the public participation phase (red alert for ten minutes, at varying times according to the Federal time-schedule) was the most successful ever in the Commonwealth. Clearly, civil defense directors across the state profited very much by the Surprise Alert of June, 1956.

Generally, bell-and-light operation was classified as "excellent." A few directors, however, failed to read carefully the State Council of Civil Defense directions and waited for the "White" signal on bell-and-lights before blowing the public-action "Alert" (signifying All-Clear). A few such directors complained to Area offices of failure to receive an appropriate signal at the end of the ten-minute alert period.

The vast majority of county and local directors, however, had no such difficulty. The exact procedure was outlined in Information Circular 73, State Council of Civil Defense (see

Table II of that document).

Conelrad Report

The most extensive Conelrad report system in the nation during "Operation Alert 1956" was Pennsylvania's "Project Tune-in," in which civil defense personnel as well as private citizens were requested to send in detailed reports of Conelrad reception. A photo of the early response to Project Tune-in appears in this issue of THE KEYSTONE DEFENDER.

Dr. Gerstell hoped to get 2,500 reports, at least one, preferably several, from each political subdivision of the Commonwealth. In a short time after Project Tune-in, 5,500 reports were in, with more flowing into State Council offices daily.

This data will be compiled and a final, detailed report will be prepared for the use of all civil defense directors.

The results of the Conelrad test appear as "spotty," with some areas reporting "clear and uninterrupted" reception; others indicating "acceptable" reception, and still others reporting "garbled, broken, unsatisfactory" reception. It appears, however, that a great majority of communities have acceptable Conelrad service on one of two frequencies—few have acceptable reception on both.

County and community exercises

All Mass Care Centers of Greater York City Civil Defense were opened, at least on a "token" basis, with full operation at Spring Grove Fire House. Adair C. Knox, Welfare Director of York County, reported that 21,800 evacuees could have been housed and fed there. In York exercises, the American Red Cross participated extensively.

In Lackawanna County, sea scouts acted as telephonists at the county control center. Scranton was reported "a ghost town" during the public participation alert. C.D.-Red Cross participation was cited as "outstanding."

A combined Lehigh County-Allentown exercise was centered in Emmaus in the evening hours. The huge Emmaus exercise, based on a simulated bombing, was led by Walter Flores, Lehigh County Director. Fire-fighting and rescue, welfare, first aid and the newly-organized Radiological Intelligence teams participated, not on a simulated but on an "actual" basis.

Lehigh County has been a leader in the training of radiological monitoring teams.

Fire and rescue operations were conducted in the Greater Hazleton

(Continued on next page)

MORE "OPERATION ALERT 1956" PHOTOS



The Transportation and Engineering Staff, Western Area Headquarters, Butler, working out the many problems presented during "Operation Alert 1956."



Typical Registration and Inquiry desk at a Mass Care Center. The scene is Spring Grove School, York County. Registrar is Mrs. Clarence Little. Evacuees are Garry Patterson, Terry Patterson, Harland Resh and Dean Bentzel, all of Thomasville.

(Photo by Charles D. Doerflein, Official Photographer, Spring Grove Civil Defense Zone 5)

MASS CARE EXERCISE

(Continued from page 4)

Make notes of any changes in layout, additional staff members needed.

(c) See that signs, armbands and any blank R&I forms are stored, preferably under lock and key in the Center.

Immediately following the Exercise the Manager should send copy of Staff list to the Civil Defense office. As soon as possible I.D. cards should be issued to all Staff who participated in the Exercise.

At least three times a year, Welfare Staff should report to their Mass Care Center. An Exercise need not be

planned each time but there should always be something for the Staff to do:

(a) Work out paper problems.

(b) Go in a body as Evacuees to another Mass Care Center.

(c) Practice communication with other C. D. units, requesting clothing, additional First Aiders, food, etc.

(d) Practice call-out system of Staff.

It is the Manager's responsibility to keep his Staff list active and up to date.

NEW ROLE FOR BRITISH SPOTTERS

The men and women of Britain's Royal Observer Corps have been given a new job: They are being trained to monitor radioactive fall-out.

Observers there are told the possibility of low-level attack is still of first rate importance and spotting is a great responsibility.

Two field drills for fall-out reporting procedure have already been held in Britain and another is planned. Five camps have been established and will train about 2,000 men and women observers in these new duties.

In war time the information would be collected at the Royal Observer Corps' Central Operations Room and passed instantly to both the civil and military authorities.

"Operation Alert 1956"

(Continued from preceding page)

area (Luzerne County) by William Young, civil defense director there.

A realistic, eye-catching map of Bethlehem was printed by the Globe-Times on July 20th (page one), with a huge, ragged black area in the center of the city marked "GONE." Bethlehem Boy Scouts cooperated in that area, using an emergency communications unit staffed by boy scouts.

Col. John Brubaker (Northampton County) reported all control centers of his county as activated. Under his direction "help" was flowing toward Bethlehem from several directions very shortly after the "bombing."

Williamsport Civil Defense operated from the home of Mrs. Ruth Pardee, where a full-fledged control center has been set up. Director Paul W. Reeder of that city reported the best exercise in his experience. Lycoming County, too, reported a highly-successful exercise.

Perry County staged an exercise near Newport that featured first aid, fire, rescue and welfare. Emergency feeding arrangements were set up at the Newport Lutheran Church for participants in the exercise. Mrs. Albert Pollard of New Bloomfield was in charge of welfare activities.

Ken B. Fester, Danville Civil Defense Director, also reports rescue squad operations in that borough. The Danville public participation exercise was described as "nearly perfect."

Unexploded bomb - reconnaissance detachments (56th and 69th Ordnance Detachments) conducted exercises in many areas. Sites of unexploded bombs were in many counties and all areas of the State.

THE NEW SIGNALS

(Questions and Answers presented in this article are intended to clarify some points of apparent confusion on the use of the new public action signals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.)

Question. What is the primary purpose of the "Alert" signal?

Answer. To gain the attention, rapidly, of both civil defense workers and the public at large, in order to speed up the dissemination of essential emergency information or instructions to them. It means, essentially, "Listen, we have news for you."

Question. What is the purpose of the "Take Cover" signal?

Answer. To rapidly notify the public at large of the fact that attack by hostile aircraft is imminent. It means "duck and cover," not soon, but at once.

Question. What does a civil defense worker do when he hears the "Take Cover" signal?

Answer. Take cover in the best available shelter and continue to his place of duty only after such condition is past.

Question. When the new signals became official, why didn't the Commonwealth change the signals on the bell-and-light warning box?

Answer. The United States Air Force still uses the three conditions of warning that were, up until June of this year, the official Commonwealth public action signals, namely Condition Yellow meaning attack by hostile aircraft probable; Condition Red, attack by hostile aircraft imminent, and Condition White, attack by hostile aircraft improbable. There is, however, a possibility that changes in this procedure will be made in the future.

Question. May a local civil defense director use the Alert Signal, followed by radio announcement, in connection with natural disaster operations?

Answer. Yes. This authority is specifically given in Information Circular 71 of the State Council of Civil Defense. This circular cautions against too frequent use of the signal, however.

Question. Is there any set order in which the new signals must be sounded by a county or local civil defense director?

Answer. Absolutely not. This point is emphasized because of apparent misunderstanding in some localities. The signal depends on the situation; there is no prescribed order for public action signals. The fact that the Alert Signal appears first on the new Fed-

KEYSTONE DEFENDER
CIVIL DEFENSE CENTER
Quakertown, Pa.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

SEC. 34.66 P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
PERMIT No. 1705

Librarian
Periodical Sect.
Pennsylvania State Library
Harrisburg, Pa. 21

eral Air Raid cards does not mean that this signal must be sounded first.

Question. How may a county or local director secure additional Air Raid Warning cards?

Answer. County directors may secure these from State Council offices; local directors should apply through county offices.

C. D. Rally In Wayne

MORE than 100 Civil Defense workers attended a county-wide meeting held recently in Wayne County Court House, Honesdale. Ted Lilholt, County Director, was in charge of the meeting which came shortly after an emergency welfare training session held at Lake Ariel.

Speaking to the Directors were, in addition to Lilholt, Dr. Hobart Owens of Hawley, a veteran in Civil Defense since 1950 and also of the 1955 floods; Jack Silberlicht, Communications Director; and Robert Hetticher, Auxiliary Police Director.

Industrial Publication

A LIMITED number of copies of The Volkert View, a publication of Volkert Stampings, Inc., containing an article titled "Will Your Plant Be Ready . . . If Disaster Strikes?" is available through the State Council of Civil Defense office. It contains valuable hints on industrial disaster control.

Col. Edwin Feather, State Training Director is in charge of publications at the State Council office.

BLAST DAMAGE

SOME cases of highly-erroneous calculation of blast damage on the part of civil defense directors during the recent "Operation Alert 1956" have been brought to the attention of the State Council of Civil Defense.

For this reason, directors are referred to Technical Bulletin 8-1, published by the Federal Civil Defense Administration and available through State Council offices. This bulletin, titled "Blast Damage from Nuclear Weapons of Larger Sizes" includes a simple scale by which approximate damages may be quickly calculated.

OFFICIAL LOG

THE VALUE of an Official Log at county and local civil defense control centers cannot be over-emphasized. It is, in truth, a history of an exercise or operation.

A simple "log form" may be mimeographed, or, where such process is not practicable, typewritten or written in pen and ink. The form may consist only of the official headquarters letterhead and four columns, showing Date; Hour; Entry, and Initials.

There are various systems for keeping logs. Some headquarters have a separate log for each staff member on duty at the headquarters. Others have only one Log, that one in custody of a Log Clerk. In this system directors scrawl entries and pass along to the Log Clerk.

The need for an Official Log was very apparent after the flood operations of August, 1955. An action taken today will be forgotten tomorrow, unless it is a matter of record.

The purpose of initialling a log must be obvious to all. However, the question arises, What shall and what shall not be entered in the log?

Since most civil defense headquarters are staffed by volunteers and are usually "short" on trained administrative help, a simple rule of thumb may be: Whatever official action is not recorded on an Official Message Form, and therefore on file in the Message Center, shall be made a matter of record in the Official Log.